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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,257	02/25/2004	Richard Knight	KNGT002US0	2711

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EXAMINER

A, MINH D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/786,257

Applicant(s)

KNIGHT, RICHARD

Examiner

Minh D. A

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14, 16-17, 19, 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Morgan et al (US 6,608,453).

Regarding claim 1, Morgan discloses a control system for automated lights (40A-40C), comprising: a controller (22) having an output signal comprising a plurality of channels transmitted repeatedly in sequence', at least one addressable receiver for operating an automated light, the receiver being connected to the controller and arranged to receive at least some of the channels; wherein the controller is arranged to encode instruction for the or each receiver and send each encoded instruction using a predetermined number of consecutive channels of the output signal, the predetermined number being at least two; and wherein the receiver is arranged to combine information received from the predetermined number of consecutive channels to form one encoded instruction, decode the encoded instruction, and operate the automated light on the basis of the decoded instruction. See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.17, lines 1-56.

Regarding claim 2, Morgan discloses that, the receiver comprises a memory; the encoded instruction refers to a location in said memory; and the receiver is arranged to

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decode the instruction by accessing the referred memory point. See col.7, lines 45-67 to col.12, lines 1-53.

Regarding claim 3. Morgan discloses that, the encoded instruction corresponds to an entry in a database and the receiver is arranged to decode the encoded instruction by accessing the database. See figures 2 and 4.

Regarding claim 4. Morgan discloses that, the controller is arranged to encode the instruction such that one channel of the consecutive channels contains information regarding which attribute of the automated light is to be controlled, and the other channel or channels continuous information regarding how that attribute is to be set. See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.16, lines 1-67.

Regarding claims 5, 10, 14, 17 and 28, Morgan discloses that, the predetermined number of consecutive channels. See figures 2-4.

Regarding claims 7, 12, 16, 19, 21-22, 27, 29 and 30, Morgan discloses that, the controller is arranged to transmit the output signal in accordance with the DMX protocol. See col.14, lines 1-32.

Regarding claim 8. Morgan discloses that, the encoded instruction corresponds to an entry in a database and the receiver is arranged to decode the encoded instruction by accessing the database. See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.16, lines 1-67.

Regarding claim 9, Morgan discloses that, the controller (22) is arranged to encode the instruction such that one channel of the consecutive channels contains information regarding which attribute of the automated light is to be controlled, and the

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other channel or channels contains information regarding how that attribute is to be set.

See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.16, lines 1-67.

Regarding claim 13, Morgan discloses the controller is arranged to encode the instruction such that one channel of the consecutive channels contains information regarding which attribute of the automated light is to be controlled, and the other channel or channels contains information regarding how that attribute is to be set. See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.16, lines 1-67.

Regarding claim 23, Morgan discloses that, a receiver arranged to receive an output signal comprising a plurality of channels transmitted repeatedly in sequence from a controller and operate the automated light on the basis of instructions received in the output signal; wherein the receiver is arranged to receive at least two consecutive channels for each instruction and combine the information received from all of the at least two channels to determine each instruction. See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.17, lines 1-56.

Regarding claim 24, Morgan discloses an encoding an instruction at a controller; sending a data packet comprising a series of channels from the controller to a receiver, the encoded instruction being sent as a predetermined number of two or more channels of the data packet; receiving the data packet at the receiver; combining the information contained in the predetermined number of consecutive channels at the receiver so as to determine the encoded instruction; decoding the instruction; and controlling the light in accordance with the instruction. See figures 1-4, col.5, lines 10-67 to col.17, lines 1-56.

Regarding claims 25-26, Morgan discloses the receiver comprises a memory; the encoded instruction refers to a location in said memory; and the receiver decodes the instruction by accessing the referred memory point. See figures 2-4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6, 11, 15, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Morgan et al (US 6,608,453) in view of Lys et al (US 2005/0062440).

Regarding claims 6, 11, 15, 18 and 20, Morgan does not disclose each channel can be set to any one of 256 values. However, Lys discloses each channel can be set to any one of 256 values. See col.3, lines [0060] to [0061].

It would have been an obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ each channel can be set to any one of 256 values such as that suggested by Lys in lighting system of Morgan in order to provide a high light level for each automated lights.

Conclusion


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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sugden (US 5,406,176) and Lys et al (US 6,777,891) show a lighting control system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Minh A whose telephone number is (571) 272-1817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30 –2:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong, can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1553.


Don Wong
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

Examiner

Minh A

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4/27/05